



The sixth annual Ultimatebet Aruba Poker Classic begins with a gala evening around the pool at the Radisson Aruba Resort

All the players have arrived, including a planeload of Ultimatebet.com pros that were flown in by private plane from a tournament in the Turks and Caicos, and all are ready to play and party for one week of top-flight poker competition until on of them leaves with nearly one million dollars in prize money. For the official opening of the weeklong event, the top pros were paraded out to the Radisson pool deck like the poker royalty, where a sumptuous welcome party awaited them and all the participants and Ultimatebet poster pros Phil Hellmuth and Annie Duke greeted over 500 players and their families to Aruba. They introduced the Ultimatebet team, which consisted of a number of new faces, including Matt Savage, who is tournament manager in Aruba for the first time, and celebrity player Scott Ian, who won his place in the tournament during the VH1's Rock Stars of Poker tournament.

Phil Hellmuth noted that after six years the Aruba Poker Classic has become one of the premiere international poker events of the year. "Our pros that we just flew in came from a tournament in Turks and Caicos that was attended by how many? Ninety players? What have we here for our week in Aruba? Over 500 and counting? I think we can officially declare the Aruba Poker Classic is a "major event," he announced.

Another new face to Aruba is Gene Bromberg, who is officially chronicling all the action for Ultimatebet, and his daily blog recounts the progress of the players, humorous anecdotes and has photos of the fun and events, so poker fans can stay up to minute on all the happenings by logging on to : www.ultimatebet.com/poker-blog. Sadly, John Vorhaus, a long time island visitor and well-known author who annually reported the tournament on his blog since Ultimatebet first started coming to Aruba, has moved on to teach sitcom writing courses in Romania. (We are NOT making that up, really!!) Since his new career move, it is rumored that a new show titled "Everyone loves...Dracula" will be on the fall line up on Romanian TV.

What is no rumor is that there is still places in the Ultimatebet main event, which begins tomorrow at noon, and interested parties can to register to win the nearly one million dollar grand prize, or settle for a mere few hundred thousand if they take second or third place. The registration office is located on the ballroom level of the Radisson Aruba Resort. Registration also gave players entry to this morning's World Series of Poker (WSOP) workshops, and lets them play right alongside the top pros, perhaps beating them as did last year's winner, young winner, Devon Miller. Nineteen year old Annette Oberstad was proof anyone with the skill can take home over two million dollars and a gold bracelet when she won last month in London on the first WSOP international event. Ultimatebet has a week full of exciting and fun special events planned for their players that will allow them to meet the pros, get poker advice, and improve their game. Also providing an interesting note to the event is the calendar photo shoot that will feature Absolute Poker model Sarinda Swan and Aruba's beautiful scenery.

The welcome event of the Ultimatebet Aruba Poker Classic ended as it usually does, with "Everyone in to the pool!" and as happens with gamblers, those that dared to do it won a quick \$500! The big money action has begun!